

DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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Vol. 41, No. 39

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, October 4, 2002

Year-end closeout

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Monday's end-of-year closeout provided many improvements to services, construction projects and commodities to Charleston AFB.

Team Charleston members from the 437th Contracting Squadron, 437th Comptroller Squadron, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron and 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron Supply Flight worked late into the night Monday, grinding out funding for CAFB requirements.

Maj. David Rowland, 437 CONS commander, said preparation for Monday

See CLOSEOUT, page 8



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Editing to perfection

Senior Airman Kurtis Villavicencio, 437th Communications Squadron Multimedia Center videographer, edits a new 437th Mission Support Group mission video for the first MSG commander's call under the new realignment.

Overgrown trees at end of runways to be cut for flight safety

BY LT. COL. ED MEMI
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Commercial and military aircraft flights in and out of Charleston will get a big boost in safety when a trees are removed from the ends of the base's two runways.

An airfield survey in 2001 revealed that trees near the end of the two runways had grown through the approach zone. The entire forest canopy around the base has grown to a height that exceeds safety criteria for airfields.

The tree removal project is expected to protect lives and Air Force property; maximize the safety and efficiency of runway operations; meet constant availability stan-

dards of an unrestricted approach during landing procedures; and maintain precision landing capabilities for all aircraft operations, according to a July 2002 Environmental Assessment, prepared by the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight.

Most of the trees are fast-growing pine trees, according to Kevin Porteck, an Air Force forester from the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence at Brooks AFB, Texas, who conducted the comprehensive survey of the forested land around the base.

The base will use a commercial contractor to remove the intruding trees near the ends of the runways. The tree removal project is expected

to begin by Wednesday and will take approximately 10-12 weeks to complete.

Base residents will likely notice the trees being cut down along Arthur Drive as they enter and leave the base through the Rivers gate entrance, off Aviation Avenue, said Bill Werrell, 437th CES community planner.

"The other areas where the trees are being cut down will not really be that noticeable to the public," said Werrell.

The timber harvest/sale portion of this project is being funded by the Air Force Forestry Management account, said Al Urrutia, 437th CES environmental engineer. The actual tree-cutting project will be

managed by the AFCEE.

"A commercial logger will remove the trees, especially the marketable ones, for timber," said Urrutia.

Safety for the commercial side of the flightline will also be enhanced by removal of the trees.

"This project will enhance flight safety for civilian, as well as military operations," said Sam Hoerter, director of airports for the Charleston County Aviation Authority. "We support our Air Force partners, and appreciate their continuing contributions to this unique joint-use operation."

Werrell said to keep the trees from growing back, selected (envi-

See TREES, page 3

COMMENTARY

Quality of Life projects funded for fiscal closeout

By COL. BROOKS BASH
437 AW COMMANDER

Thanks to everyone involved with the fiscal year closeout. The 437th Comptroller, Contracting and Civil Engineer Squadrons worked many long hours to successfully take advantage of year-end monies. We also had great support from the unit resource advisors.

We received just under \$18 million from our headquarters to fund key mission essential projects, such as new security fencing and refurbishment of the third floor of the new 437th Services Squadron headquarters building.

Quality of life projects included base-wide paving projects, dormitory building renovations, Sports and Fitness Center renovation, new bowling center equipment, base theater facelift, new fitness and outdoor recreation equipment, McComb's Way jogging trail refurbishment and supplies for the Child Development Center and Youth Center.

Last week's Mobility Exercise was a good learning experience. Everyone worked very hard, and I appreciate your efforts. The objective of the exercise was to

test our mobility machine and prepare for the upcoming MOBEX, Oct. 17-20, which is another opportunity to prepare for our wartime mission. See the article on page 3.

We did find several areas that needed improvement. Fifty-three percent of the processed personnel had incomplete records while another 34.3 percent required medical records correction. Unit deployment managers are key to the whole process of ensuring our people are ready. We processed 99 personnel and 130 short tons of cargo and expect to process about 500 people and 400 short tons of cargo during the October exercise. As you can see, we have a lot of work ahead of us to refine our processes to support our wing mission; to be able to rapidly deploy personnel and equipment. Safety will also be an important factor in preparing for the upcoming MOBEX. Use this time to get ready and close out any discrepancies now. Let's be prepared!

The Combined Federal Campaign kicked off this week and will run through Nov. 8. **Capt. Heather Gordon**, 437th Mission Support Squadron, is the wing project officer, and she has a team of highly motivated squadron and

group project officers that will be contacting you soon. Our goal is to achieve 100 percent contact and to give everyone a chance to contribute to the charity of their choosing. CFC allows you to give back to the community.

This week we held the inaugural **Heart Link** program, which is designed to help spouses adjust to the military lifestyle. The program, administered by the Family Support Center, provides a four-hour orientation about a variety of base services and helping agencies. If you are a new spouse, who has been associated with the military for less than five years, you should consider participation in this outstanding program. We held our first practice session recently and plan to hold these orientations quarterly with the next session scheduled for Dec. 4.

I was pleased to recognize our Diamond Sharp recipients Tuesday. Receiving top honors were: **Airman 1st Class Brandy Skoofalos**, 437th Security Forces Squadron; **Senior Airman Tammie Witcher**, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Airman Nathaniel Lette**, 437th Communications Squadron; and **Senior Airman Dina Lyons**, 15th Airlift

Squadron (who was TDY). Congratulations!

Maj. Gen. Wallace Whaley, director of operations for the Air Force Reserve Center at Robins AFB, Ga., will deliver a brand new C-17 to the base today. This delivery is our 45th aircraft delivery from the Boeing assembly plant at Long Beach, Calif.

Maj. Gen. Nick Williams, 21st Air Force commander, will bring a group of civic leaders from the New Jersey and New York areas here next Wednesday and Thursday. They will spend a good portion of their day touring the base on Wednesday.

Fire safety week begins Monday. Base housing residents can receive a free fire extinguisher at the base housing office Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, our firefighters will hold a series of fire drills at base services facilities and provide tours of the fire department. On Thursday, the fire department will provide a demonstration on how to escape a home with simulated smoke. There will be a parade and fire department display at the Base Exchange from 2:15-6 p.m., Oct. 11. I hope to see you at some of these events. Have a great weekend and be safe!

Action Line: HVAC system maxed out, CE maintaing to best of ability

Q: The Base Consignment Shop has no air conditioning, and it's been that way for the past couple of months. We've called the civil engineer squadron several times, but they seem to have been unable to fix the problem, and we're curious as to what the situation is. (Editor's note - There were several calls to the action line regarding this subject.)

A: Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. I'm told the HVAC system in your building is old and in need of replacement, but civil engineering now has it operating at maximum capacity. CE is aware of the less-than-optimal cooling and limited heat. Until the Consignment Shop HVAC system can be upgraded, CE will

maintain the existing equipment to the best of their ability. Volunteers are critical to the success of Team Charleston and I thank you, the volunteers, for your efforts. (Action Line phone number: 963-5581; E-mail at action@charleston.af.mil)

—Col Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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IN THE NEWS

Exercises, evaluations keep CAFB ready for anything

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After working a war-time mission by deploying or taking up the slack for deployed members, hours for many workers seem to get longer and longer.

Then a crash phone goes off, and it's exercise time again.

Even though some people may think exercises are a hassle, exercises and evaluations ensure the wing is prepared for anything that comes its way.

According to Baker, exercises during high operations tempo are important to the wing because contingencies do not always test members on every accident or incident that could happen.

"Even in (an extreme) OPSTEMO, exercises give

commanders that snapshot, the honest, objective look," said Maj. Daren Baker, 437th Airlift Wing deputy inspector general. "Are we as good as we think we are?"

The wing annually conducts a mobility exercise, four major accident response exercises, a natural disaster response exercise and a force protection condition exercise.

"There are Air Force Instruction requirements to do these exercises," said Baker. "AFI 32-4001 outlines (the MARE and NDRE)

exercises we are required to perform. It also tells exactly what kind of exercises we have to perform, such as mass casualty, conventional munitions, hazardous materials and nuclear incidents."

The NDRE has to be for a natural disaster that can occur here, Baker said, which is why Team Charleston usually conducts a hurricane exercise.

"The purpose of these five exercises ensures that our people are trained and our plans are adequate," said Baker.

Wing mobility exercises are done for several different reasons, said Baker.

"Mobility exercises are done when there's an upcoming Air Mobility Command IG mobility inspection," said Baker. "An-

other reason we perform internal mobility exercises is to ensure the wing and units are following requirements for deployments. It gives the wing commander, group commanders and squadron commanders an independent evaluation of our mobility readiness."

Baker said the installation deployment plan dictates that CAFB performs the exercise annually.

"The main objective of mobility exercises are to evaluate the installation deployment plan and how well the wing is conducting deployments," said Baker. "The second objective is to evaluate the mobility readiness of a small select group of unit type codes."

It's important to do the exercises on an annual basis due to the high turnover of personnel, said Baker.

Baker, also the current chief of the wing's exercise and evaluation team, said it's important to have evaluators to give commanders an assessment of how the base does during exercises. EET members are ap-

pointed by squadron commanders to help the EET team chief plan, conduct and evaluate exercises. The EET team chief goes through formal training such as the on-scene commander's course, incident command and HAZMAT training.

Additionally, all EET members are trained by the Civil Engineer Readiness flight using AMC-approved lesson plans.

"The reason we have unit EET members is to provide scenarios and exercise objectives that the unit commanders want evaluated," said Baker. "The EET members will help evaluate those objectives because they are the functional experts in those areas."

Lt. Col. Brian Trout, 437 AW inspector general, said the EET members are vital to CAFB.

"The EET works extremely hard to formulate, prepare, execute and evaluate exercises that provide value to the wing," said Trout. "The program is critical to prepare this wing for its peacetime and war-time mission."



Photo by Airman Stephanie Hammer

Airman Hasan Walden, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron, inventories A-bags for a deployment.

TREES

continued from page 1

ronmentally safe) herbicides will be used.

"The herbicides will allow the low-growing vegetation to return, but will crowd out the future growth of trees," said Werrell.

Werrell added that the base has selectively trimmed trees in the past, but the recurring maintenance costs and ability to do selective cuts were becoming too difficult to accomplish.

"The tree canopy around Charleston AFB affects the base's 50:1 glide slope," explained Werrell about the safety standard for most airfields.

"Which means for every 50 feet you go out, you are allowed to go up one foot from the end of each runway," continued Werrell. "If you follow that angle, you'll see

that we have a large number of trees which penetrate through that glide slope."

Additional trees off-base will be cut later, once negotiations are complete with the affected landowners, said Werrell. He added that the Savannah District Army Corps of Engineers would handle those negotiations.

The growth of the trees also affected the base's attempts to bring on line a new Precision Approach Path Indicator system, which provides an optimal flight path for aircraft attempting to land on the base's primary instrumented runway when the weather is bad. Because the trees are so high, the new system could not be certified.

"Taking this action to remove the trees obstructing the flight path is critical to safe flight operations at Charleston AFB and the Charleston International Airport," said Lt.

Col. Jim Barr, 437th Operations Support Squadron command and a C-17 pilot with over 4,500 flying hours. "We must remove the trees to comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations and to maintain our certification as an instrument airfield.

"One of our runways has already been closed to instrument flight, restricting aircraft to land and take-off only during visual flight conditions," Barr explained. "This restriction limits accessibility of the airport during inclement weather conditions. The trees are too close to the flight path of approaching and departing aircraft, and will continue to grow deeper into the protected airspace. That growth will increase the risk to flight safety until they are removed."

Charleston AFB has two class-B runways which are used primarily for high performance and lift air-

craft like the C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules.

"Since Charleston AFB uses Visual Air Navigation Facilities located on the approach ends of the runway, trees or other obstructions must be removed for flight safety," concluded Werrell.

The base completed an environmental assessment and found that the removal of the trees will have no significant impact on the environment provided several safeguards were followed in affected wetlands.

"Because the proposed action affects trees in wetlands, environmental impacts had to be evaluated by completing an environmental assessment," said Urrutia.

The EA can be viewed on the base's public web site at <https://www.charleston.af.mil> or at the Dorchester library branch.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Maintenance Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Gregory Szupillo, Monday, 2 p.m., at the Community Education Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Paul Childers at 963-4652.

Awards: Tech. Sgt. Julie Rice, 437th Medical Group, was awarded the John Levitow Award at a recent NCO Academy graduation. Tech. Sgt. Michael Hall, 437th Communications Squadron was awarded the Commandant and Distinguished Graduate Awards.

Around the base

Embry Riddle: Registration for the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's winter semester is being held through Oct. 11 at the Community Education Center. For more information, call 767-8912.

Fire Safety events: The fire department will issue fire extinguishers to housing residents at the housing office, 8-11:30 a.m., and 1:30-3:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday. They will also hold fire drills for the bowling alley, Charleston Club, golf course and the Base Chapel, and there will be fire department tours available 9:30-11:30 a.m., and 1:30-4 p.m., Wednesday. The fire department will hold fire drills for base facilities during normal duty hours, and smokehouse demonstrations will also be available for family day-care providers 6-7 p.m., and base residents starting at 7 p.m., Thursday, located at 1259 Hodge Avenue.

Combined Federal Campaign

Every year, Charleston AFB members reach deep into their pockets to support local, national and international communities through the Combined Federal Campaign.

The CFC is the only authorized, charitable fund-raising campaign for federal employees, both civilian and military. It is the largest and most successful workplace fundraiser in the world, raising over \$200 million last year for thousands of charities.

The CFC gives the opportunity to choose which charity donations will go to. Donations can even be divided among up to five different organizations. Please contact a squadron point-of-contact, or any of the listed group POCs, to donate. A donation truly makes a difference.

(Submitted by Capt. Heather Gordon, 2002 CFC base coordinator)

Charleston AFB – Capt. Heather Gordon at 963-4539
437th Airlift Wing – Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mathe at 963-2536
437th Mission Support Group – 2nd Lt. Greg Holmgren at 963-3627
437th Medical Group – 1st Lt. Kelly Barbour at 963-6792
437th Maintenance Group – Master Sgt. Daniel Stipanuk at 963-4675
437th Operations Group – 2nd Lt. Regan Madis at 963-5858
315th Airlift Wing – Tech. Sgt. Adonica Jenkins at 963-2068

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Airman Paul Berry 437th Civil Engineer Squadron

Airman Paul Berry is a firefighter with the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight.

"It's a fun job, and an exciting life," said Berry. "You jump on the truck, the sirens are going and the adrenaline is up. It just doesn't get better than this."

According to Berry, life at the firehouse is treating him well.

"We're like a family here," said Berry. "We look after each other."

Aside from fun, Berry also said he understands the dangers involved in a demanding career field like his.

"Just knowing your life's on the line, knowing you might be trading your own life for someone else's, it's very rewarding at the end of the day," said Berry.

Before joining the Air Force, the Illinois native said he was also a volunteer firefighter for two years.

"It's just something I've always done," he said.

Beyond his duties as a firefighter, Berry said he is enjoying life in the Air Force.

"I love the Air Force; it's an experience," said Berry. "I like the environment. Here I'm part of an organization and have made a lot of friends."

Charleston AFB is Berry's first duty station, and he said he's glad to be here and to be a firefighter.

"You never know what you're getting into, and that's the exciting part."



Photo by Airman Stephanie Hammer

Parade: The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department will host a parade Oct. 11 as a grand finale to Fire Prevention Week. Thirty trucks will start at the firehouse on Bates Street, 2:15 p.m., and go down Hill Boulevard. They will turn left on East Jackson Drive, right on Hutchinson Street to South O'Neal Avenue, where they will travel the entire circle. When they return to

Hill Boulevard, the trucks will turn left onto West Jackson Drive, right on Batson Avenue, left on Gross Street, and then left onto North O'Neal Avenue. They will take North O'Neal Avenue to the BX parking lot, where the fire department will give away free hot dogs.

Hispanic Heritage: The Hispanic Heritage Dinner and Dance is scheduled for Oct. 11, 7 p.m., at the Charleston Club. David Silva, deputy director of the C-17 Systems Support Management Directorate, will be the guest speaker. Trio Malagon will perform Hispanic ballads during dinner, and a disc jockey will play Hispanic music from all of Latin America until closing. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Roberto Caceres at 963-4894.

Chief's group: The Charleston AFB Chief's Group will meet Oct. 17, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. All chiefs and chief-selects are invited.

Citadel volunteers: The Citadel is holding a career day Oct. 24, 4-

5:30 p.m. Officers are needed to volunteer to tell cadets about Air Force jobs. For more information, send an e-mail to 437awpac.comrel@charleston.af.mil.

Education Fair: The base education office is holding an education fair Oct. 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in the ballroom of Bldg. 221.

NAHM: Volunteers are needed to help plan Native American Heritage Month events for November. For more information, call Master Sgt. Dan Stipanuk at 963-4675.

Mentoring: Midland Park Elementary School is looking for volunteers to mentor third-grade children. For more information, call Stephanie Sexton at 764-2221.

Disney World: Select Walt Disney World Resorts are offering active-duty military personnel and activated members of the Reserve a 50 percent discount, available most nights from now-Dec. 25, excluding Nov. 26-29. Call 407-WDISNEY, and mention code CNL for prices.

NEWS

AF to benefit from 100 percent tuition assistance Oct. 1

Education office staff challenges Team Charleston to take advantage of opportunities to further education

By AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force members at Charleston AFB will benefit from a new Department of Defense tuition assistance policy Oct. 1.

The DOD will pay 100 percent of tuition costs and mandatory fees for off-duty courses up to a maximum of \$250 per semester, not to exceed \$4,500 per year, according to Air Force education officials.

However, according to officials, tuition assistance cannot be used to pay for textbooks, unless they are included in an academic institution's published tuition rates.

"It's essential for you to take advantage of this entitlement you've

earned by wearing the uniform, and we want to help you do that," said Diana Roebuck, Community Education Center education and training officer. "It's not easy, but it's worth it. You're worth it."

Roebuck also said the education office has employed a few more counselors to aid servicemembers in furthering their college education.

"We have a fantastic new staff eager to take on the whole base and give them what they want and deserve, an education," said Roebuck.

Roebuck emphasized the accessibility, availability and capability of the new staff and said they were lucky to have this many people.

"The counselors are there as your advocates," continued Roebuck.

"There's no pain involved, but just the pleasure of accomplishment. They're not going to set you up for failure, but set you up for success."

New to the staff and leading the pack is Medora Manley, CEC supervisory education services specialist, who says she hopes the staff will be better than ever.

"I want to encourage everyone to come in," said Manley.

According to Roebuck, only 18 percent of the enlisted force at CAFB has degrees. She said she has challenged the education office staff to bring that percentage up to 25. One way she said to do that is to encourage members to take advantage of City Colleges of Chicago, that offer classes on base.

"We can start classes with a minimum of eight people," said Roebuck. "This is the smallest number for a class that I have ever seen."

If unable to attend traditional classroom-style classes, Roebuck said not to worry.

"We have great programs on base that offer so many alternatives to help get a degree," said Roebuck.

If interested in receiving help in taking advantage of educational opportunities, Roebuck said there has never been a better time.

"If you've got a problem, we've got a solution," said Roebuck. "You see it as a hurdle, we see it as a challenge. We're not doing our job if we haven't talked to everyone on base seeking an education."

CLOSEOUT

continued from page 1

started months prior.

"Closeout is a huge wing effort to position the wing for end-of-year execution (of awards)," said Rowland. "Even though (closeout was Monday), the planning starts back in the summer."

Approximately three months before, contracting personnel worked with squadrons to determine requirements for each unit. Staff Sgt. Hector Lopez, 437 CONS contract specialist, said his flight went into action after the requirement was received at contracting and approved as an actual requirement.

"After we have validated the requirement, we call the unit to ensure we know exactly what they want," said Lopez. "After we identify to the vendors what we want, we start doing market research to validate prices."

After contracting determines which vendor the award will go to, they take all the information to start the order, said Lopez. The order is then set aside until funding comes through for it.

"We still have to do work

even if there's no funding from Air Mobility Command," said Lopez. "We put so much work into the packages that we feel relieved when the money comes down."

Betty Smith, 437 CONS Plans and Programs Flight chief, said supply, contracting, CE and finance all have major roles in end-of-year closeout.

"The base comptroller's duty is to closeout the fiscal year funding-wise," said Smith. "Contracting, base supply and CE execute the end-of-year plan."

Executing the end-of-year plan is accomplished by submitting orders to finance and having them approved.

Capt. Steve Cristofori, 437 CPTS Financial Analysis Flight commander, said finance was a primary driver of closeout.

"We direct all activities involving funding, as well as execution of contracts to maximize the wing commander's dollars," said Cristofori. "We work closely with contracting to obligate contracts and deliver orders."

To determine what gets

funded, a "spend list" is created and prioritized by Team Charleston's greatest need, which is determined by the wing commander.

This year, the greatest priority was furniture for the new supply warehouse. Fitness for Team Charleston is also getting a makeover, to include renovations to the base gym, new equipment for the gym and fixing up the jogging trail.

Lt. Col. Maria Dowling, 437 CES commander, said it was a tremendous end of year for CE.

"We got over \$8 million in end-of-year facility projects," said Dowling. "A few of the projects that were funded were renovating the interior of some of the dorms, (including) Bldgs. 475 and 477, and improving the perimeter security fencing."

Smith compared end-of-year closeout to a jigsaw puzzle.

"There are about 50 pieces of the end-of-year closeout puzzle," said Smith. "If you prepare for closeout and study every aspect, there will be no problem putting the puzzle together."

Photo of the Week



Photo by Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons, 1 CTCS

Quietly looking on

A young child quietly watches the Moment of Silence Ceremony at the September 11 Memorial held at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, S.C., Sept. 11.

October marks start of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month returns for its 17th year in October.

The National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations started this program in 1985 in hopes of decreasing breast cancer deaths and increasing the number of mammograms and breast exams women have.

According to NABCO Web site, mammography rates have more than doubled for women over the age of 50, from 25 percent in 1987 to 69 percent in 1998. Also, the death rates have declined by 1.6 percent each year between 1989 and 1995.

According to the American Cancer Society Web site, there will be about 192,000 new cases of breast cancer this year. More than 40,000 women will die from breast cancer this year.

Lois Idleman, 437th Medi-

cal Group breast health nurse educator, said a booth at the BX is scheduled to be set up with education literature about breast cancer on Oct. 15. The committee is also planning on having a women's health seminar to teach breast self-exams in the dorms.

"It's important for women to do self-exams because 80 percent of lumps are found by women themselves," said Idleman. "Physicians and mammograms catch the other 20 percent."

ACS's Web site recommends women have an annual screening mammogram beginning at age 40. Women should also have clinical breast exams performed by a medical professional every three years beginning at age 20, and annually after age 40. Women should also practice monthly breast self-exami-

nation beginning by age 20.

To help raise money for breast cancer, Team Charleston can participate in a local charity event.

There will be a Race for The Cure on Oct. 26 Daniel Island's Etiwan Park, sponsored by the Charleston chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

To sign up for the walk or run, or to volunteer, call Capt. Paul Brown at 963-4678, the Race Hotline at 792-9186, or register at www.charlestonrace4cure.org.

"Race for The Cure raises money for breast cancer research to find a cause and a cure for breast cancer," said Idleman. "There is no cause known."

(Submitted by the 437th Medical Group. Airman 1st Class Amy Perry, 437 AW Public Affairs also contributed to the article.)

1 CTCS airman claims Levitow

Senior Airman Stacy Pearsall, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, earned the Sgt. John L. Levitow Award during Airman Leadership School Class 02-H.

Senior Airman Shane Reed, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, received the Academic Achievement Award and a Distinguished Graduate Award.

Senior Airman Shawn Johnson, 437th Maintenance Squadron, received a Distinguished Graduate Award.

Senior Airman Justin Halterman, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, earned the Leadership Award and a Distinguished Graduate Award.

Graduates from the five-week course also include the following senior airmen:

14th Airlift Squadron: Lee, Sharika

15th Airlift Squadron: Knox, Steven

315th Security Forces Squadron: West, Brian

437th Aircraft Generation

Squadron: Bahm, Steven; Baumann, Paul; Bell, Leslie; Lapinski, John; Skoofalos, James

437 APS: O'Meara, Robert II; Schwartz, Scott; Turner, Andre; Turpin, Kiley; Tutt, Terence

437th Civil Engineer Squadron: Cotter, Kevin; Smith, John

437th Comptroller Squadron: Lorick, Freddie

437th Maintenance Squadron: Berry, Douglas; Bryant, Will; Inlow, James; Swain, Daniel; Trial, Brian

437th Security Forces Squadron: Hall, Robert Jr.; Stokes, Kenya

437th Supply Squadron: Pride, John; Travis, Carl

437th Services Squadron: Betterton, J'Nesse; Greenwood, Harvey

437th Transportation Squadron: Butler, Cedric; Casella, Nicholas; Simmons, Wayne

Naval Consolidated Brig, Detachment 3: Kookan, Joshua

First in Emergency Respo

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's 3 a.m., and the streets are alight with flashing lights and wailing horns as the familiar red truck zooms past. Not another thought is given as the lights and sirens fade in the distance, but for the three-man team in the truck, the excitement is just beginning.

Whether it's an automobile accident, plane crash or simple fire alarm, the best insurance policy money can buy seldom compares to the peace of mind gained by knowing the 437th Civil Engineer Fire and Emergency Services Flight Emergency Response Team is on duty, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at Charleston AFB.

"We're always the first one in and last one out," said Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Phipps, 437th CE FESF station captain and rescue crew chief.

"We can be anywhere on base in three minutes."

The Emergency Response Team has the capabilities to respond to anything from a broken arm or a cat trapped in a tree, to weapons of mass destruction, hazardous materials and confined space rescues. They even support the Charleston International Airport.

"We can go from hours of boredom, and in 10 seconds, to a state of complete terror," said Staff Sgt. Brian Rowe, 437 CE FESF firefighter paramedic. "You have no clue what the day holds."

The team rotates shifts so they are on for 24 hours and off for the next 24 hours, with a minimum of 23 people manning the fire station at all times. They even have their own sleeping quarters there.

"We spend more time in the fire station with each other than with our family," said Phipps.

Responding at a moment's notice is a key job description when applying for a position as part of a rescue crew.

"When you pick up the phone and call us, you know we'll show up," said Rowe. "We are your insurance, for fire and life."

According to Douglas Alexander, 437 CE FESF captain and lead firefighter, the base sees

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Fire and E



The hydraulic rescue tool, better known as the "jaws of life," is used by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Phipps, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, to remove the tops of wrecked vehicles and rescue trapped passengers.

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very few fires and said training has been the key ingredient to ensuring the team is ready for anything.

"We're always training," said Alexander. "Ninety percent of fire prevention is training. The fire prevention flight does such a good job that we seldom have fires on base, and we owe that to them."

Training to be a firefighter or a paramedic starts with the basics at technical school.

"The training you receive as an Air Force firefighter would take years on the civilian side

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*Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Phipps
Emergency Services Flight*

we were only thought of when someone actually picked up the phone and called 911," said Rowe.

Although there is a heightened awareness for jobs such as theirs, the team agrees that they're just doing the job today that they did yesterday and will continue to do tomorrow.

"They say it's either in your blood or it's not," said Alexander, who has been in the business for 18 years. "If it is, then you stay."

When it comes to job satisfaction, the team also agrees a dollar amount can't be placed on the type of rewarding feeling they get out of showing up for work every day.

"When you pull someone out of a building or save a structure, you know you just did something that matters," said Phipps. "We know we make a difference, and we like that."

Responding to incidents in the Charleston area isn't the only thing the team has to look forward to. Deployment taskings and activating reservists are always a part of life at the fire station.

"When the reservists are activated, you

can't tell who the reservists are and who is active duty," said Phipps.

Rowe agreed with Phipps and said he thinks there might be only a few career fields that deploy more than them.

To keep their cool, the team said they have a few rules they try to live by.

"Never get yourself in a situation so exciting you don't survive," said Phipps.

While Rowe sees eye-to-eye with Phipps, he said he sometimes views things more as they apply to paramedics.

"Never let your heartbeat exceed that of your patients," continued Rowe.

All in all, the team says they wouldn't trade their jobs for anything else in the world.

"It's never the same," said Phipps. "There's always something different."



Above: Staff Sgt. Brian Rowe, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter paramedic, checks for elevated blood pressure of another firefighter after a response.

Left: Douglas Alexander, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services Flight lead firefighter, inspects a ladder on top of the response vehicle. Alexander has been "playing with fire" for 18 years.



Diversity key element of AF: Success depends on contributions from wide range of people, nationalities, cultures

BY CAPT. JENNIFER FEHL
437 AW MILITARY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Diversity within the Air Force is a key element to our success. Understanding our peers', subordinates' and supervisors' contributions plays a vital role in overall mission accomplishment.

The special observances honored each month allow Team Charleston members to take the opportunity to share their knowledge and increase their understanding of other ethnic groups on our team.

The 437th Airlift Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office is dedicated to advising committees about how to honor and celebrate diversity through these special observances.

Team Charleston honors Martin Luther King, Black History Month, Women's History Month, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, the "Days of Re-

membrance," for the victims of the holocaust, and Native American Heritage Month with memorial services and celebrations as appropriate.

There are many prominent African-American figures, who made and are making substantial contributions to the Air Force. This is part of the reason it is so important to celebrate the contributions of these people. In particular, we honor Martin Luther King, and his peaceful means of teaching diversity, by celebrating his birthday.

The tireless efforts of many women shall never be forgotten. During March, we observe Women's History Month to take time out to share with family members, friends and others past and current events through which women have provided invaluable rewards to our nation.

Our next Native American ethnic observance runs through-

out November. At this time of year, when we as a nation give thanks for the freedom and peace we take for granted, it's fitting that we have the opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions these Americans have made in preserving freedom.

Did you know that Native Americans have served their nation with distinction for more than 200 years, to include five Native Americans that have been awarded our nations highest military honor - the Medal of Honor? They were known as the "Code Talkers."

Hispanic Americans and Americans of Asian Pacific Islander descent have also made tremendous contributions to our nation. Can you name any of the key contributors from these cultures?

Although the MEO office invariably performs numerous functions, equal opportunity and

treatment is one area of great concern. It is a readiness issue and an integral part of overall mission effectiveness and accomplishment.

Great emphasis has been placed on this particular subject and compliance is imperative to all. The more Team Charleston knows and understands about each of our teammates' cultures, the better we will be able to work effectively together.

The MEO office will continue its efforts to ensure all personnel are treated equitably and that work environments promote an atmosphere that fosters unity and esprit de corps.

Appreciate our differences, and let them work to our advantage to enhance Team Charleston.

Please contact the MEO office at 963-3655 if you have any concerns regarding equal opportunity and treatment or other items of interest.

Every job important at Charleston AFB

Appreciate how people around us fit into big picture

By LT. COL. JOHN KEFFER
437 CS COMMANDER

The military profession is unique, particularly in today's American society.

To most people outside the military, we look very similar in our uniforms. Our uniforms make each individual's dress and appearance common, whether one is a finance officer or a computer technician, a pilot or a loadmaster. Strikingly different areas of expertise are barely distinguishable to the untrained eye.

Those of us who have been in awhile learn to pick up the subtle difference at a glance; two specialty badges on someone who cross-trained; a mess dress jacket full of medals on a second lieutenant; someone with distinguished enlisted service prior to officer training school.

With time in the service, we find ourselves more involved in our own career fields and learn a language that no one outside of our area understands.

When I arrived in June, one of the in-processing briefings I found on my schedule was on "MEO." After coworkers saw a slightly blank look on my face, they asked if I knew what the acronym "MEO" stood for. I told them of course I did – medium Earth orbit. I had moved here from U.S. Space Command, and everyone knows MEO orbits are where we have our global positioning satellites.

The darker side of our specialization is that it can begin to create friction within our Air Force when we forget how to speak to other people outside our area of expertise, or narrowly ponder why we don't get more resources and others less.

Flight crews can begin to grumble to themselves, "Why does the Air Force need hundreds of supply clerks any way?" A postal service clerk can wonder, "Why is the Air Force buying another multi-million dollar airplane when I can't even get a Gortex jacket issued to me to deliver their mail in the rain?" Do we really need such a wide variety of career fields and systems to put planes in the air? Yes, we do.

It turns out that despite the uniforms, we're not really all the same. We come from amazingly different backgrounds. While our initial training teaches us how to fit in and meet set standards, we still each bring a unique set of skills, and a unique perspective, to our jobs. And it turns out that our units are greater than the sum of the parts because our diversity is strength.

Next month, I reach my 16-year mark in the



Air Force, and it's finally sinking in just how great it is that the people around me don't all think the same way. I have the honor of being promoted, and I'm looking back at the large number of people who have pushed, nudged or pulled me along the way to reaching a new rank.

The senior master sergeant who sat me down as a butter bar and explained the concept

that great effort was merely good without thoughtful direction; the phrase "all thrust, no vector" comes to mind.

The colonels who decided to stretch me as a junior captain to take over the duties of an officer with twice my service time because the job needed to be done.

The civilian supervisor who raised the bar as she led by example in redefining the terms "hard work" and "dedication."

The major command functional manager who taught me a bitter lesson that the needs of the Air Force do come first, and don't necessarily work against a career.

The boss who kept my head in the game through a protracted period of personal loss, a boss in a green Army uniform no less; the pastor who always has time to talk, even though I've moved twice since I attended his church.

My son, who is always proud to sit at his daddy's desk.

The young airmen who leave me shaking my head in amazement at their ability and audacity on almost a daily basis.

They, and many others, unknowingly made a squadron commander. Only a few were from my career fields, and none of them are just like me.

Charleston is a great base for a number of reasons. One is that just about all of us are here for a single mission: to put airlift in the air when and where it is needed. That goes for active-duty military, reserves, civilians and contractors.

Yes, it can be difficult to understand how other people's jobs affect wing mission performance, like how handing out towels at the gym affects the base's on-time departure rate, but it does.

So does an admin clerk getting a pilot's records corrected in time for the next board, and a computer tech resetting a maintenance supervisor's password that was forgotten over a 179-day deployment.

Remember, we all have our assigned duties, and we all contribute to the mission. Diverse individuals working together is how the wing mission gets done.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive
Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Phone: 963-2536.

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services: *Saturday* - 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. *Weekdays* - 11:30 a.m. Mass. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex.

Protestant Services: *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Bldg. 217 (old Chapel).

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader, David Sirull, at 571-3264.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission: 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times,

which are subject to change.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"XXX" – Vin Diesel

Cage (XXX) is recruited by National Security Administration Agent Gibbons to go undercover and infiltrate a Russian crime ring. If he refuses, he will be sent to jail. XXX takes the job and travels to Prague where he helps uncover the plan to use biological weapons. **(PG-13) 113 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Signs" – Mel Gibson

In Bucks County, PA., five-hundred-foot crop circles are found on the farm of Graham Hess, the town's reverend. The circles cause a media frenzy and test Hess's faith as he journeys to find out the truth behind the crop circles. **(PG-13) 111 minutes**

Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.

"Men in Black II" – Tommy Lee Jones

Kay and Jay reunite to provide our best, last and only line of defense against a sinister seductress. **(PG-13) 82 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS

To bike or not to bike

Is the AF bringing back the mandatory run?

By AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After suggestions of going back to a mandatory run reached Charleston AFB, Jason Ham, 437th Medical Group fitness program manager, said that it's still possible, but hasn't happened yet, and it won't replace ergometry testing.

"There's talk of the run coming back," said Ham. "However, it will not likely replace the bike. What is being explored is the option for the one-and-a-half mile run, only after they've failed the bike (test) and have gone through the health screening process.

"But, all it is right now is a proposal," continued Ham. "It's on the table, but it's just being discussed. Nothing is set in stone."

According to Ham, the Air Force

Medical Operations Agency has recently instructed the Air Force, through Air Force Instruction 40-501, *The Air Force Fitness Program*, to implement the automatic workload adjustment bike for the time being.

This new bike differs from the old in that there's not a set rpm that you have to pedal at, said Ham.

"CAFB will actually be one of the first ones to have it here," said Ham.

Ham emphasised the bigger issue of testing; getting and keeping Team Charleston physically fit.

"What we're attempting to do is provide active-duty military members at CAFB with numerous avenues to become physically fit, and testing also helps promote that."

According to Ham, he doesn't want to see CAFB do more harm than

good.

"If we went back tomorrow to the run without screening (for health), we might repeat history," said Ham. "In 1991 alone, five people died in the run.

"Most importantly, we want to make sure that this is the safest approach," he continued.

The bike is an accurate test, and there are few people who are fit and actually fail the test, according to Ham.

"Less than one percent of the Air Force falls into that category of having predisposed cases of elevated heart rates," said Ham. "Only three people here fell into that category last year."

Outside of running, Ham said there are bigger issues to discuss.

"The big topic of discussion is mandatory PT (physical training) in

the Air Force," said Ham. "It's the biggest push when looking at the fitness program.

"Forty percent of the population (at CAFB) is sedentary, which means they report not doing any kind of activity," continued Ham. "We should have 100 percent reporting physical activity at least three times a week."

According to Ham, there's more to being physically fit than what can be seen on the outside.

"It's the preconceived notion that if you look professional in your uniform, then you must be physically fit," said Ham. "That's not always the case.

"Fitness is more than what meets the eye," he continued. "Being skinny or having that six pack doesn't necessarily mean you're healthy."

Timing is right for Wright for week 4

By THE SWAMI
PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

Week five football action was pretty ugly for the visiting teams. Out of 14 games last week, 12 home teams were victorious.

Gary Wright happened to be the lucky Swami winner with a 10-4 record. His four losses were the four biggest upsets. He lost on the Rams, Patriots, Vikings and Broncos. The percentages show that the majority of people picked those teams also.

Wright edged out Chuck Capps by having the better tiebreaker score. Capps is probably kicking himself in the rear for not picking his beloved Cowboys.

The Swami knows who the Dallas fans are out there, and he has succeeded in teaching these people not to pick the "Boys." The Swami thinks those people are going to start picking them again because they won their second game of the year.

"Don't do it," says the Swami. "They are still in for a miserable year."

Capps has been a Cowboys fan since he was a little kid when he got his first pair of Chuckie Taylor's with the star on the side.

On the other hand, there were a few people whose picks were downright horrible. The

trio of Alex Manning, Jennifer Turner and Matthew Jeter had equally pathetic records of 3-11.

The Swami is thinking about starting a book club for people like Manning, Turner and Jeter. They should take up reading instead of trying to pick football games. Only the Swami has the vast skill and knowledge of picking football games. The Swami has spent many years teaching that fine art to people all over the world.

Remember what the Swami said about Tommy Maddox taking over for the Steelers? Well, guess what? The Swami called that, and last week while Kordell Stewart was

fumbling the ball all over the place, the Swami phoned Dan Rooney (Steelers' owner) and told him to get Maddox in the game now. The Steelers went on to win thanks to Maddox...and the Swami!

Don't worry about the Swami's record right now. The Swami is also a baseball genius and is working his magic to see that the Yankees win another World Series title. As soon as "Mr. October" (the Swami) takes care of the baseball business, he will be right on top of the Swami pigskin pickers. The Swami likes to play around the first few weeks to give everybody a chance to win. You better get going because time is running out!



Week Six

Name/Phone #: _____
Comments: _____

Sunday, Oct. 13

Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati

Carolina @ Dallas

Buffalo @ Houston

Baltimore @ **Indianapolis**

Detroit @ **Minnesota**

Green Bay @ **New England**

Atlanta @ **New York**

Jacksonville @ **Tennessee**

New Orleans @ **Washington**

Oakland @ St. Louis

Kansas City @ **San Diego**

Cleveland @ **Tampa Bay**

Miami @ **Denver**

Monday, Oct. 14

San Francisco @ Seattle

Monday night total points: _____

Swami's Monday night points: **39**

Swami's picks are in bold and italics.

Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in
Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

**Picks must be submitted by Friday,

Oct. 11, 4 p.m.**